



NEWS

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Open Burning Seasons for Crop Replacement and Flood Debris Begin

The open burning seasons for crop replacement flood debris fires will begin Tuesday, October 1, 2002, according to Ellen Garvey, Air Pollution Control Officer for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

The open burning season for crop replacement begins October 1 and ends April 30, 2003. These fires are allowed:

1. to establish an agricultural crop in a location that formerly contained another type of crop or previously uncultivated land,
2. must be necessary for the crop replacement to proceed and
3. must be set or allowed by the public fire official having jurisdiction.

In addition, if the purposes of the fire is to establish an agricultural crop on previously uncultivated land and is expected to exceed 10 acres in size or the piled material was cleared from more than 10 acres of land, the fire is subject to the same requirements as Wildland Vegetation Management fires in the Air Districts **Regulation 5**, sections 401.15 and 408. Copies of the regulations can be downloaded from www.baaqmd.gov or can be obtained by calling (415) 749-4900.

The burning season for agricultural fires set for the removal of wood and vegetation debris deposited by a flood begins October 1 and ends May 31, 2003. These fires must be deemed necessary and must be set or allowed by the public fire official having jurisdiction.

Open burning is regulated because of its potential impact on air quality. Certain fires for agricultural purposes, flood control, fire training and the prevention of fire hazards are allowed for specified periods throughout the year. In addition, each day of the year is designated as either a BURN or a NO BURN day. Days when air pollution caused by open burning are minimized by favorable weather conditions are designated as BURN days.

Allowed fires can only take place on a BURN day. The person seeking open burning authorization must check for daily burn status prior to burning. BURN/NO BURN days are forecast by 3 p.m. on the District's toll-free number **1-800-HELP-AIR** for the following day.

Open burning rules apply to the entire Bay Area, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties. For additional information, call the District's Public Information Office at (415) 749-4900. To register complaints about illegal burning or other odor problems, call the District's 24-hour complaint line at 1-800-334-ODOR.

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